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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
ISAO OSAKO, ET AL. : EXAMINER: STULII, V.  
SERIAL NO: 10/670,603 :  
FILED: SEPTEMBER 26, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1761  
FOR: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR :  
MANUFACTURING FROZEN OR  
REFRIGERATED HALF-BOILED  
NOODLES

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated September 20, 2006, the Applicants elect with traverse the invention of Group I, including Claims 1-6, drawn to a method for manufacturing frozen or refrigerated half-boiled noodles.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement based on M.P.E.P. § 803 which states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.